# Risk Assessment Section Sample – the following is just an example; not all the items listed may apply to your specific protocol

## *Risk Assessment Example for Field Study With Small Mammals*

(For each numbered task, provide a description of the hazard and the planned approach for managing the hazard)

### List tasks required:

1. Setting and baiting traps
2. Anesthetizing/euthanizing small mammals
3. Handling small mammals
4. Walking through tick and mosquito habitat
5. Travel to and from study site

### For each task described above, list associated hazards:

1. Potential for cuts/abrasions from metal traps.
Exposure to infectious agents left from animals (urine, feces etc.)
2. Direct contact with [list anesthetic] and/or inhalation of [list anesthetic]
Transport and disposal of anesthetic
3. Biting and scratching from animals.
Exposure to zoonotic pathogens.
4. Exposure to tick and/or mosquito pathogens
5. Unable to get prompt emergency services at field study location, limited road access, nearest medical facilities over 1 hour away.

### For each of the hazards described above list how the hazards will be managed.

1. Cuts/abrasions from traps: Traps will be maintained to minimize risk of injury. A first aid kit will be available in the vehicle. Soap and water will be available in the vehicle to clean wounds. In the event of a wound, the area will be washed thoroughly with soap/water and proper first aid measures will be applied.

Exposure to infectious agents left from animals in the trap: After capturing and processing animal all materials will be removed from the trap. The trap will be wiped down with a bleach solution to disinfect. Nitrile gloves and masks will be worn at all times.
2. Direct contact with / inhalation of isoflurane: Isoflurane will be kept in a sealed container in a locked box in the trunk/truck-bed of the vehicle. Use of isoflurane will be done outside to minimize risk of inhalation. A second person will be on-hand in the event of spill/contact. Nitrile gloves, goggles, and a mask will be worn while handling isoflurane. In the event of direct contact with isoflurane, skin/eyes will be immediately flushed with water and medical attention will be sought.
3. Biting scratching from animals: Nitrile gloves will be worn while handling the animals. Kevlar gloves will be available to personnel. We will encourage the use of Kevlar gloves whenever possible. [If Kevlar gloves cannot be used you need to explain why].
In the event of an animal bite/scratch, the animal will be placed back into the trap, the bite/scratch site will be scrubbed with soap/water for 5 minutes and assessed. For minor wounds an antibiotic cream will be applied and the bite will be bandaged. For deeper punctures with bleeding, pressure will be applied and medical attention will be sought.

Exposure to zoonotic pathogens: Nitrile gloves will be worn while handling animals/traps. Equipment (forceps, scissors, etc.) will be wiped down with ethanol or a bleach solution between traps. All personnel involved in this project will be up to date on tetanus vaccines.
4. Exposure to mosquito and tick-borne pathogens: Participants will be instructed to wear long pants tucked into their socks and check daily for ticks and tick bites. Insect spray will also be made available for use on the face and exposed skin. Participants will be encouraged to wear permethrin-infused clothing. Participants will be given a brief training on the risks of mosquito and tick-borne diseases and the typical signs of the diseases. Participants will also be directed to the [Maine Center for Disease Control (CDC) Website](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/vector-borne/) to obtain additional information.
5. Establish communication plan with xxxxx using radio/cell phone/satellite phone. Training in first aid/cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for all members of team. First Aid kit and/or Wilderness First Aid kit included in equipment inventory.